

**Abstract:**

A prepaid licensing method permits the prepaid licensing of software on a machine in a secure manner. The method includes storing information for licensing at least one prepaid use of software on a machine. The information, which can be in the form of a software option, includes unique and unchangeable information identifying the machine, and information for measuring a number of uses of the software on the machine. The method includes locally granting a license for the number of prepaid uses of the software on the machine, based upon the stored information.